



## **NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS**

**National Reports to be submitted to the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
of the Conference of the Contracting Parties,  
Romania, June 2012**

Please submit the completed National Report, in electronic (Microsoft Word) format, and preferably by e-mail, to the Ramsar Secretariat by **15 September 2011**.

National Reports should be sent to: Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer, Ramsar Secretariat ([dufour@ramsar.org](mailto:dufour@ramsar.org))

### Introduction & background

1. This National Report Format (NRF) has been approved by the Standing Committee in Decision SC41-24 for the Ramsar Convention's Contracting Parties to complete as their national reporting to the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties of the Convention (Bucharest, Romania, June 2012).
2. Following Standing Committee discussions at its 40<sup>th</sup> meeting in May 2009, and its Decision SC40-29, this COP11 National Report Format closely follows that used for the COP10 National Report Format, which in turn was a significantly revised and simplified format in comparison with the National Report Formats provided to previous recent COPs.
3. In addition to thus permitting continuity of reporting and implementation progress analyses by ensuring that indicator questions are as far as possible consistent with previous NRFs (and especially the COP10 NRF), this COP11 NRF is structured in terms of the Goals and Strategies of the 2009-2015 Ramsar Strategic Plan adopted at COP10 as Resolution X.1, and the indicators speak to relevant Key Result Areas (KRAs) for each Strategy in the Strategic Plan.
4. The COP11 NRF indicators include, with the agreement of the Standing Committee, certain indicators specifically requested to be included by the Convention's Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) in light of its work on assessing effectiveness indicators, and by the CEPA Oversight Panel, in order to facilitate their information gathering and reporting on key aspects of scientific, technical and CEPA implementation under the Convention. The format also includes indicator questions concerning the use of the "Changwon Declaration on human well-being and wetlands", as requested in Resolution X.3 (2008).
5. This COP11 NRF includes 82 indicator questions. In addition, for each Strategy the option is provided for a Contracting Party, if it so wishes, to supply additional information concerning its implementation under each indicator and, more generally, on implementation of other aspects of each Strategy.
6. The COP11 Format also now includes an additional, optional, section (section 4) to permit a Contracting Party to provide additional information, if it wishes to, on indicators relevant to individual Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites).

### The purposes and uses of national reporting to the Conference of the Contracting Parties

7. National Reports from Contracting Parties are official documents of the Convention and are made publicly available through their posting on the Convention's website.
8. There are six main purposes for the Convention's National Reports. These are to:
  - i) provide data and information on how the Convention is being implemented;
  - ii) capture lessons and experience to help Parties develop future action;
  - iii) identify emerging issues and implementation challenges faced by Parties that may require further attention from the Conference of the Parties;
  - iv) provide a means for Parties to be accountable for their commitments under the Convention;

- v) provide each Party with a tool to help it assess and monitor its progress in implementation, and to plan its future priorities; and
  - vi) provide an opportunity for Parties to draw attention to their achievements during the triennium.
9. The data and information provided by Parties in their National Reports have another valuable purpose as well, since a number of the indicators in the National Reports on Parties' implementation provide key sources of information for the analysis and assessment of the "ecological outcome-oriented indicators of effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention" currently being further developed by the Scientific and Technical Review Panel for Standing Committee and COP11 consideration.
10. To facilitate the analysis and subsequent use of the data and information provided by Contracting Parties in their National Reports, once received and verified by the Ramsar Secretariat all information is entered and held by the Secretariat in a database, which then facilitates extraction and analysis of the information for a number of purposes.
11. The Convention's National Reports are used in a number of ways. These include:
- i) providing the basis for reporting by the Secretariat to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the global and regional implementation, and the progress in implementation, of the Convention. This is provided to Parties at the COP as a series of Information Papers, including:
    - the Report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the Convention at the global level (see, e.g., COP10 DOC. 6);
    - the Report of the Secretary General pursuant to Article 8.2 (b), (c), and (d) concerning the List of Wetlands of International Importance (see, e.g., COP10 DOC. 7); and
    - the reports providing regional overviews of the implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan in each Ramsar region (see, e.g., COP10 DOCs 8-13);
  - ii) providing information on specific implementation issues in support of the provision of advice and decisions by Parties at the COP. Examples at CO9 and COP10 included:
    - Resolution IX.15 and X.13, *The status of sites in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance*, and
    - Information Papers on *Issues and scenarios concerning Ramsar Sites or parts of sites which cease to meet or never met the Ramsar Criteria* (COP9 DOC. 15), *Implementation of the Convention's CEPA Programme for the period 2003-2005* (COP9 DOC. 25), *Overview of the implementation of the Convention's CEPA Programme for the period 2006-2008* (COP10 DOC. 16, and *Background and rationale to the Framework for processes of detecting, reporting and responding to change in wetland ecological character* (COP10 DOC. 27);
  - iii) providing the source data for time-series assessments of progress on specific aspects in the implementation of the Convention included in other Convention products. An example is the summary of progress since COP3 (Regina, 1997) in the development

of National Wetland Policies, included as Table 1 in Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 2 (4<sup>th</sup> edition, 2010); and

- iv) providing information for reporting to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on the national-level implementation of the CBD/Ramsar Joint Work Plan and the Ramsar Convention's lead implementation role on wetlands for the CBD. In particular, the COP10 NRF indicators have been used extensively in 2009 in the preparation by the Ramsar Secretariat and STRP of contributions to the in-depth review of the CBD programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems that was being considered by CBD SBSTTA14 and COP10 during 2010 (see UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/3).

### The structure of the COP11 National Report Format

12. The COP11 National Report Format is in four sections.

**Section 1** provides the Institutional Information about the Administrative Authority and National Focal Points for the national implementation of the Convention.

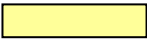
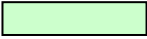
**Section 2** is a “free-text” section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

**Section 3** provides the 82 implementation indicator questions, grouped under each Convention implementation strategy in the Strategic Plan 2009-2015, and with an optional “free-text” section under each indicator question in which the Contracting Party may, if it wishes, add further information on national implementation of that activity; and a further “free-text” section for adding further information on other aspects of implementation of that Strategy.

**Section 4** ([www.ramsar.org/doc/cop11/cop11\\_nrform\\_e\\_sec4.doc](http://www.ramsar.org/doc/cop11/cop11_nrform_e_sec4.doc)) is an optional Annex to the National Report Format to allow any Contracting Party that wishes to do so to provide additional information separately for any or all of its Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites). This has been included at the request of a number of Parties.

### Guidance for filling in and submitting the COP11 National Report Format

**IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ THIS SECTION OF GUIDANCE BEFORE STARTING TO FILL IN THE NATIONAL REPORT FORMAT**

- 13. All of the first three Sections of the COP11 National Report Format should be completed in one of the Convention's official languages (English, French, Spanish).
- 14. The deadline for submission of the completed NRF is **15 September 2011**. It will not be possible to include information from National Reports received after that date in the analysis and reporting on Convention implementation to COP11.
- 15. All fields with a pale yellow background  must be filled in.
- 16. Fields with a pale green background  are optional free-text fields in which to provide additional information, if the Contracting Party so wishes. Although providing information in these fields in the NRF is optional, Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide such additional information wherever possible and relevant, since experience

shows that such explanatory information is very valuable in ensuring a full understanding of implementation progress and activity, notably in informing the preparation of global and regional implementation reports to COP.

17. In order to assist Contracting Parties in providing such additional information, for a number of indicator questions some particularly helpful types of such information are suggested. However, of course, Parties are free to add any other relevant information they wish in any of the “Additional implementation information” fields.
18. The Format is created as a “Form” in Microsoft Word. You are only able to move to each of the yellow or green boxes to give your replies and information, as all other parts of the form are locked to ensure that the form and wording of indicators will remain uniform and comparable for all Parties. If you need to work with an unlocked version of the Format, please contact Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer ([dufour@ramsar.org](mailto:dufour@ramsar.org)), who will advise on how that can be done.
19. To go to a yellow or green field you wish to fill in, move the cursor over the relevant part of the form and left-click the mouse. The cursor will automatically move to the next field available.
20. To move down the sequence of fields to fill in, you can also use the “Tab” key on the computer keyboard.
21. For a “free-text” field, you can type in whatever information you wish. If you wish to amend any of the text you have put in a green or yellow “free-text” box, it is recommended that you cut-and-paste the existing text into a separate file, make the amendments, and then cut-and-paste the revised text back into the green box – this is because within the Microsoft “Form” format there is limited facility to make editorial changes in the “free-text” box once text has been entered.
22. Certain keyboard characters interfere with the automatic data entry into our database for handling and analysing National Reports. For that reason, please do not use the characters “ ”, [ ] °°°° in the “free text” fields.
23. For each of the “Indicator questions” in Section 3, a drop-down menu of answer options is provided. These vary between indicators, depending on the question, but are generally of the form: “Yes”, “No”, “Partly”, “In progress”, etc. This is necessary so that statistical comparisons can be made of the replies.
24. For each indicator question you can choose only one answer. If you wish to provide further information or clarifications concerning your answer, you can do so in the green additional information box below the relevant indicator question.
25. To select an answer to an indicator question, use the Tab key, or move the cursor over the relevant yellow box and left-click the mouse. The drop-down menu of answer options will appear. Left-click the mouse on the answer option you choose, and this will appear in the centre of the yellow box.
26. The NRF is not intended normally to be filled in by one person alone – for many indicators it would seem best for the principal compiler to consult with colleagues in the same and other agencies within the government who might have fuller knowledge of the Party’s overall implementation of the Convention. The principal compiler can save the

work at any point in the process and return to it subsequently to continue or to amend answers previously given. When filling in this form, it is also advised to refer back to the National Report submitted for COP10 for purposes of continuity and consistency.

27. After each session working on the NRF, remember to save the file! A recommended filename structure is: COP11NRF [Country] [date].
28. After the NRF has been completed, please send the completed National Report to the Ramsar Secretariat, preferably by e-mail, to Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer, Ramsar Convention Secretariat, e-mail: [dufour@ramsar.org](mailto:dufour@ramsar.org). The Secretariat must receive your completed National Report in this electronic (Microsoft Word) format.
29. When the completed National Report is submitted by the Party, **it must be accompanied by a letter or e-mail message in the name of the Administrative Authority, confirming that this is that Contracting Party's official submission of its COP11 National Report.**
30. If you have any questions or problems concerning filling in the COP11 NRF, please contact the Ramsar Secretariat for advice (e-mail as above).

## SECTION 1: INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

<b>NAME OF CONTRACTING PARTY: BELARUS</b>	
<b>DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY</b>	
<b>Name of Administrative Authority:</b>	<b>Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus</b>
<b>Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:</b>	Mr. A/Lis, Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus
<b>Mailing address:</b>	Minsk, Kollektornaya str., 10, 220048
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	+375 17 200 70 48 (direct); + 375 17 200 66 91 (Secretary)/fax: + 375 17 200 55 83
<b>Email:</b>	
<b>DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS</b>	
<b>Name and title:</b>	Tatiana F. Trafimovich, Consultant at the Protected Areas
<b>Mailing address:</b>	Minsk, Kollektornaya str., 10, 220048
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	+375 17 200 52 63
<b>Email:</b>	tmatsur@tut.by
<b>DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO STRP (SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL)</b>	
<b>Name and title of focal point:</b>	Alexander V. Kozulin, the Head of the Sector for International Co-operation and Scientific Accompaniment
<b>Name of organisation:</b>	State Scientific and Practical Unit 'Scientific and Practical Centre for Bioresources of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus'
<b>Mailing address:</b>	Minsk, Akademicheskaya str., 27, 220072,
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	+ 375 17 294 90 69 / +375 17 284 10 36
<b>Email:</b>	kozulin@tut.by
<b>DESIGNATED GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS</b>	
<b>Name and title of focal point:</b>	Natalia V. Minchenko, the Head of Biological and Landscape Biodiversity Department
<b>Name of organisation:</b>	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus
<b>Mailing address:</b>	Minsk, Kollektornaya str., 10, 220048
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	+375 17 200 53 34
<b>Email:</b>	Minat1974@mail.ru
<b>DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS</b>	
<b>Name and title:</b>	Yuri V. Solovyev, the Chairperson of the Council
<b>Name of organisation:</b>	Belarusian NGO 'Ecological Initiative'
<b>Mailing address:</b>	Minsk, Kollektornaya str., 10, 220048
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	phone/fax: +375 17 306 53 67
<b>Email:</b>	ecoin@tut.by





## SECTION 2: GENERAL SUMMARY OF NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES

**In your country, in the past triennium (i.e., since COP10 reporting):**

A. What new steps have been taken to implement the Convention?

For the reporting period, the following actions have been taken on the Convention implementation:

- Strategy and the plan of action on the Ramsar Convention implementation are developed;
- The description of three potential Ramsar sites: a wildlife preserve 'Vygonoshchansky', wetlands complex of the Berezinsky biosphere reserve, National Park 'Braslavsky' are submitted to the Ramsar Bureau;
- Management plans have been developed for four Ramsar sites: 'Middle Pripyat' and 'Prostyry' – within the framework of the UNDP/GEF Project; 'Yelnya' and 'Osvejsky' - within the framework of the State Scientific and Technical Programme;
- The realization of management plans of the Ramsar sites 'Zvanets' and 'Sporovsky' (UNDP/GEF Project) is under way;
- In the framework of the UNDP/GEF Project 'Renaturalisation and Sustainable Management of Peatlands in Belarus to Combat Land Degradation Ensure Conservation of Globally Valuable Biodiversity and Mitigate Climate Change': works on renaturalisation of 16 degraded mires (30000 hectares) are completed;
- The implementation of the State Programme on Specially Protected Nature Areas in Belarus for the period 2008-2012 was launched, this will ensure target financing of activities on protection and sustainable use of wetlands;
- The Law on Amelioration is adopted in which prohibits drainage of new natural mires and plowing of peat soils;
- Transboundary Ramsar sites are created: 'Kotra – Chepkeljaj' (Belarus-Lithuania), 'Pripyat-Stohod – Prostyry' (Ukraine-Belarus).

B. What have been the most successful aspects of implementation of the Convention?

- Strategy and the plan of action on the Ramsar Convention implementation are developed;
- Management plans have been developed for four Ramsar sites: 'Middle Pripyat' and 'Prostyry' – within the framework of the UNDP/GEF Project; 'Yelnya' and 'Osvejsky' - within the framework of the State Scientific and Technical Programme;
- 16 degraded mires have been renaturalised in the framework of the UNDP/GEF Project 'Renaturalisation and Sustainable Management of Peatlands in Belarus to Combat Land Degradation Ensure Conservation of Globally Valuable Biodiversity and Mitigate Climate Change';
- The implementation of the State Programme on Specially Protected Nature Areas in Belarus for the period 2008-2012 was launched, this will ensure target financing of activities on protection and sustainable use of wetlands;
- Transboundary Ramsar sites are created: 'Kotra – Chepkeljaj' (Belarus-Lithuania), 'Pripyat-Stohod – Prostyry' (Ukraine-Belarus).

C. What have been the greatest difficulties in implementing the Convention?

- Works on extraction of peat are activated in the country. That could result in drainage of new natural mires;
- Absence of a complex Strategy on sustainable management of mires in Belarus, developed with consideration of biodiversity conservation interests

D. What are the priorities for future implementation of the Convention?

Recommendations and priorities:

- Develop a Strategy and Action Plan on sustainable management of mires in Belarus (in the framework of the planned UNDP/GEF Project);
- Expand activities on renaturalisation of degraded mires;
- Implement State Programme on specially protected nature areas (SPNAs);
- Proclaim 3 more territories as the Ramsar sites;
- Design an international project on the transboundary Vilia River basin (Lithuania-Belarus) management;
- Enlarge area of SPNAs by granting the most significant natural mires of Belarus the reserves status;
- Develop management plans for Ramsar sites 'Kotra', 'Olmany Mires';
- Conduct activities aimed to prevent overgrowing of the open fen mires in the 'Sporovsky', 'Zvanets', 'Prosty' and 'Middle Pripyat' Reserves;
- Conduct efficiency evaluation of the Ramsar sites management plans realization;
- Develop National management plans for globally threatened species of wetlands birds: aquatic warbler, greater spotted eagle

E. Does the Contracting Party have any proposals concerning adjustments to the 2009-2015 Strategic Plan?

No

F. Does the Contracting Party have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Ramsar Secretariat?

No

G. Does the Contracting Party have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Convention's International Organisation Partners (IOPs)?

With the assistance from the Ramsar Convention mechanism and such partners as BirdLife International, Wetlands International, it is necessary to start consultations on sustainable management of waterfowl hunting species between countries, which host main nesting and winter sites.

H. How can national implementation of the Ramsar Convention be better linked with implementation of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), especially those in the "Biodiversity cluster" (Ramsar, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), CITES, and World Heritage Convention), and UNCCD and UNFCCC?

For coordination of actions of various conventions joint sessions of Coordination councils of conventions should be held. National strategies and action plans on different conventions should be coordinated among themselves.

To include National coordinators of conventions into working groups on working out of the Strategy on different conventions and state programmes. It need to create Clearing House mechanism for all Biodiversity cluster.

I. How can Ramsar Convention implementation be better linked with the implementation of water policy/strategy and other strategies in the country (e.g., sustainable development, energy, extractive industries, poverty reduction, sanitation, food security, biodiversity)?


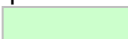
No comment

J. Does the Contracting Party have any other general comments on the implementation of the Convention?

Interrelation with the state priorities could be improved by consideration of the government programmes related to wetlands management at sessions of the National committee of the Ramsar Convention. Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection could co-ordinate such state programmes after their consideration at sessions of the National committee of the Ramsar Convention or at incorporated session of Committees of various nature protection conventions.

## SECTION 3: INDICATOR QUESTIONS & FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION INFORMATION

### Guidance for filling in this section

1. For each “indicator question”, please select one answer from the “drop-down” list in the yellow box. 
2. If you wish to add any additional information on a specific indicator, please provide this information in the green “free-text” boxes below the indicator questions. 
3. If you wish to amend any of the text you have put in a green “free-text” box, it is recommended that you cut-and-paste the existing text into a separate file, make the amendments, and then paste the revised text back into the green box.
4. Some characters used in the free text box prevent the automatic data entry into our database designed for handling and analysing National Reports. For that reason, please do not use the characters “ ”, [ ], °°°° in the free text box.
5. To assist Contracting Parties in referring to relevant information they provided in their National Report to COP10, for each indicator below (where appropriate) a cross-reference is provided to the equivalent indicator(s) in the COP10 NRF, shown thus: {x.x.x}
6. Where appropriate, a cross-reference is also provided to the relevant Key Result Area (KRA) relating to Contracting Parties in the Strategic Plan 2009-2015.
7. Only Strategic Plan 2009-2015 Strategies and KRAs for which there are significant implementation actions for Contracting Parties are included in this reporting format; those parts of the Strategic Plan that do not refer directly to Parties are omitted.

## GOAL 1. THE WISE USE OF WETLANDS

**STRATEGY 1.1 Wetland inventory and assessment.** *Describe, assess and monitor the extent and condition of all types of wetlands as defined by the Ramsar Convention and wetland resources at relevant scales, in order to inform and underpin implementation of the Convention, in particular in the application of its provisions concerning the wise use of all wetlands.*

1.1.1 Does your country have a comprehensive National Wetland Inventory? {1.1.1} KRA 1.1.i	C - In progress
<p>1.1.1 Additional information:</p> <p>Currently the basic sources of the information on wetlands condition are:  the State water cadastre including conducting of the quantitative account of water objects;  the State cadastre of peat fund;  the State lands cadastre;  the State wood cadastre;  the SPNAs Register;  Annual reviews (ecological bulletins) about environmental situation.</p> <p>In 2009-2010 in the framework of the international project 'Climate and Biodiversity' (RSPB, BirdLife Belarus) were performed the first stage of inventory of borders and the areas of natural mire , the degree of their degradation with use of methods of space sounding. The total area of natural mires had made 862 000 hectares.  An inventory of water objects in Belarus ( rivers, channels, lakes, artificial water reservoirs) is completed within the framework of the State Scientific and Technical Programme 'Ecological Security'</p>	
1.1.2 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii	C - Partly
<p>1.1.2 Additional information:</p> <p>A scheme for information provision is established withing development and implementation framework of management plans for 6 Ramsar sites (Zvanets, Sporovsky, Middle Pripyat, Prostyr, Yelnya, Osvejsky. The scheme facilitates decision making for all sites involved into the process of protection and management of the mentioned wetlands.</p>	

1.1.3 Has the condition\* of wetlands in your country, overall, changed since the previous triennium?{1.1.3 & 1.1.4}

- a) Ramsar Sites  
b) wetlands generally

Please comment on the nature of the information on which your answer is based in the green free- text box below. If there is a difference between inland and coastal wetland situations, please describe. If you are able to, please comment on what are the principal driver(s) of the change(s).

\* "Condition" corresponds to ecological character, as defined by the Convention

P - Status improved  
O - No change

1.1.3 a) Additional information: a) From 2006 to 2010 in the framework of the UNDP/GEF Project on renaturalisation of degraded mires, GEF Small Grants Programme, UNDP/GEF Project on biodiversity conservation in the Polesie region, activities have been implemented on reconstruction of hydrological regimes of the Ramsar Sites Yelnya, Osvejsky, Zvanets and thus considerably improved an ecological situation on these wetlands. Nevertheless there are certain problems with overgrowing of open fens and inundated meadows by shrubs and bushes at the Ramsar sites Sporovsky, Zvanets and Middle Pripyat. In 2011 the project on mowing of the Sporovsky Reserve fens was approved with following use of biomass for manufacture of fuel pellets. Besides within the State Programme on SPNAs similar works on removal of bushes on mires and inundated meadows are planned at the Zvanets, Middle Pripyat Ramsar sites.

1.1.3 b) Additional information: The condition of national wetlands remains without changes or with some tendency to deterioration: about 400 000 hectares of natural mires are with degraded hydrological regime, a process of degradation and dystrophication of lakes continues as a result of unsustainable use and climate changes, a process of a mineralization of peatlands, which are unsustainably managed for agriculture (70 300 hectares of peatlands are plowed up) also is underway.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.1 implementation:

**STRATEGY 1.3 Policy, legislation and institutions.** *Develop and implement policies, legislation, and practices, including growth and development of appropriate institutions, in all Contracting Parties, to ensure that the wise use provisions of the Convention are being effectively applied.*

1.3.1 Is a National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) in place? {1.2.1} KRA 1.3.i  
(If "Yes", please give the title and date of the policy in the green text box)

A - Yes

1.3.1 Additional information: By the Decree of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus as of 10 February 2009, No.177 the Strategy of implementation of the Convention on wetlands of international importance especially as waterfowl habitat was adopted. The Strategy is designed for 6 years period and is aimed to address challenges in the sphere of environmental protection and sustainable management of wetlands in Belarus in accordance with the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2014, adopted at the 10th COP (Changwon, Republic of South Korea, 2008). The objective of the Strategy is of an integrated character and will be achieved by implementation of Action Plan on the Convention realization, which includes 65 activities.

1.3.2 Does the National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) incorporate any 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) targets and actions? {1.2.2}

A - Yes

1.3.2 Additional information: The objective of the National Strategy is conservation, renaturalisation and sustainable use wetlands in Belarus. The integrated Strategy will be achieved through the implementation of the Action Plan activities in the following priority areas:

- improvement of the regulatory framework of the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands;
- inventory conduction, record keeping and analysis of the wetlands status, which includes inventory of natural mires and other water objects, keeping state water, land and forest cadastres, keeping of SPNAs cadastre;
- renaturalisation of wetlands including development and implementation of activities on restoration of damaged hydrological regime of natural mires, peat deposits, excluded from production operation, ineffectively reclaimed mires in the result of forest fund amelioration, as well as activities aimed to prevent overgrowing of open fen mires and wetlands flood plains;
- ensuring a scientifically based management, protection and sustainable use of wetlands, including development and implementation of schemes for the comprehensive use and protection of water, land management schemes and projects, SPNAs management plans and other activities aimed to improve wetlands management, their protection and wise use;
- regulation of the distribution and numbers of invasive non-ingenious species of wild animals and wild growing plants;
- development of wetlands of international importance network, protection and sustainable use of these lands;
- activation of international co-operation, including development of coordinated action plans to comply with international agreements of the Republic of Belarus on the issues of environmental protection with the Ramsar Convention, development of co-operation with neighbouring on the issues of transboundary wetlands establishment, development of coordinated action plans for transboundary wetlands management, attraction of international technical assistance for implementation of projects on conservation and sustainable use of wetlands;
- improvement of information support to the issues related to conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.



1.3.3 Have wetland issues been incorporated into other national strategies and planning processes, including:

- a) Poverty eradication strategies
- b) Water resource management and water efficiency plans
- c) Coastal and marine resource management plans
- d) National forest programmes
- e) National strategies for sustainable development
- f) National policies or measures on agriculture
- g) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans

{1.2.3} KRA 1.3.i

Z - Not applicable  
C - Partly  
Z - Not applicable  
C - Partly  
C - Partly  
C - Partly  
A - Yes

1.3.3 Additional information: Principles of protection and sustainable use of wetlands are included into various national programmes and strategies:

- National Strategy for Sustainable Social and Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus for the period up to 2020.
- National Action Plan on Environmental Protection for 2006-2010.
- Scheme of the rational location of SPNAs in Belarus up to 2015.
- Republican Programme 'Conservation and use of ameliorated lands for 2000-2010'.
- National Strategy for Development and Management of the Protected Territories System up to 1 January 2015.
- State Programme for SPNAs System Development for 2008-2014.
- Strategy of Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity for 2011-2020.
- Strategy and Action Plan of the Republic of Belarus on Land Degradation.

1.3.4 Are Strategic Environmental Assessment practices applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands? {1.2.5} KRA 1.3.ii

C - Partly

1.3.4 Additional information: In 2010, a new statutory wording of the Law on Ecological Expertise was adopted. The document envisages environment impact assessment (EIA) procedure. In the Republic of Belarus, according to the Article 58 of the Law on 'Environmental Protection' it is stated that EIA is conducted in the case of planned commercial or other type of activity, which could have harmful impact on the environment. Regulations for the EIA conduction, requirement to materials and reports on the results of such assessment are determined by the legislation of the Republic of Belarus on State Ecological Expertise. Various commercial projects undergo the State Ecological Expertise.

1.3.5 For any project development (new buildings, new roads, extractive industry, etc.) that may affect wetlands, are Environmental Impact Assessments made?

A - Yes

1.3.5 Additional information: In accordance with the instruction for EIA conduction of planned commercial or other activity in the Republic of Belarus EIA is conducted at pre-project and project stage and is aimed to define types of environment impacts in the result of the planned commercial or other activity, as well on definition of respective changes in the environment and forecast of its condition.



1.3.6 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments?	A - Yes
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1.3.6 Additional information: The following amendments and newly developed regulations were introduced:

1. Regulatory legal act, which establishes requirements on structure and content of schemes for integrated use and protection of water.
2. The draft regulatory legal act establishing the requirements in the field of environmental protection when developing peat deposits.
3. The draft regulatory legal act establishing methodology for estimation of absorption and allocation of greenhouse gases from mire ecosystems.
4. Regulatory legal act 'Rules for SPNAs management plans development'.
5. Regulatory legal act 'Rules for the development of action plans on preservation of rare and endangered species'.
6. Regulatory legal act 'Procedures and rules on renaturalisation of degraded mires'.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.3 implementation: In compliance with the Instruction about the Procedure of the Environmental Impact Evaluation of planned economical and other activities in Belarus, if the population and social

organisations are willing to take part in preparation and discussion of environmental impact

evaluation of the planned economical and other activities, the initiator provides the people concerned with the necessary information and insures their participation in the preparation and

discussion of the impact evaluation materials.

**STRATEGY 1.4: Cross-sectoral recognition of wetland services.** *Increase recognition of and attention in decision-making to the significance of wetlands for reasons of biodiversity conservation, water supply, coastal protection, integrated coastal zone management, flood defence, climate change mitigation and/or adaptation, food security, poverty eradication, tourism, cultural heritage, and scientific research, by developing and disseminating methodologies to achieve wise use of wetlands.*

1.4.1 Has an assessment been conducted of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar Sites? {1.3.1} KRA 1.4.ii	C - Partly
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1.4.1 Additional information: During development of management plans for the Ramsar sites Middle Pripyat, Prostyr, Yelnya, Osvejsky, as well as in the course of updating management plans of the Ramsar sites Zvanets, Sporovsky, the characteristic of the reserves' potential value was given, including are identified ecosystem services, which could be provided by the mentioned above Ramsar sites, potential directions of the reserves ecosystem resources are identified, advisory possibilities, and also possibilities of trade, education and involvement of local communities.

1.4.2 Have wetland programmes and/or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives and/or food and water security plans been implemented? {1.3.2} KRA 1.4.i	B - No
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1.4.2 Additional information:

1.4.3 Has national action been taken to apply the guiding principles on cultural values of wetlands (Resolutions VIII.19 and IX.21)?  
{1.3.4} KRA 1.4.iii

C - Partly

1.4.3 Additional information: According to the recommendations confirmed by the Ministry of Environment for developing scientific, industrial and economical proofs for designation, reorganization and cessation of functioning of SPNA, the scientific grounds should contain the "Historical and Cultural Potential" section. Thus, during the preparation of scientific proofs for designation and reorganization of wetlands, the cultural heritage of the territories whose significant part contains wetlands is evaluated. In this section a list of the history and cultural memorials, their characteristics and maintenance regime, situated on the concerned territory is given.

1.4.4 Have socio-economic and cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {4.1.5} KRA 1.4.iii

C - Partly

1.4.4 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names): The 'Cultural and Historical Information' section can also be found in SPNA Management Plans. Work is done to prepare such sections and to include them in the management plans for the Ramsar sites Yelnya, Osvejsky, Middle Pripyat and Prostyr, as well as during the update of the management plans for the Ramsar sites Zvanets and Sporovsky each territory was given a characteristic of historical and cultural objects, which are located at the reserves' territory or in a close vicinity to them.

Social and cultural importance of wetlands is also taken in consideration when a new Ramsar site designation is considered. In 2009, it was the case for the potential Ramsar sites Braslav Lakes and Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve.

In the framework of the scientific research 'Analysis of development factors of ecotourism development in the Sporovsky Reserve' assessment of the historical and cultural heritage of the territory was conducted.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.4 implementation:

**STRATEGY 1.5 Recognition of the role of the Convention.** *Raise the profile of the Convention by highlighting its capacity as a unique mechanism for wetland ecosystem management at all levels; promote the usefulness of the Convention as a possible implementation mechanism to meet the goals and targets of other global conventions and processes*

1.5.1 Have you taken steps to ensure that your national focal points for other environmental conventions are contributing to the application of Ramsar Convention implementation mechanisms? KRA 1.5.i

A - Yes

1.5.1 Additional information:

1.5.2 Have you brought the “Changwon Declaration” (Resolution X.3) to the attention of your:

- a. head of state
- b. parliament
- c. private sector
- d. civil society

B - No  
B - No  
B - No  
A - Yes

1.5.2 Additional information:

1.5.3 Has the “Changwon Declaration” been used to inform the positions of your national delegations to other external processes (such as the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, UN agencies, multilateral environmental agreements, and the World Water Forum)?

C - Partly

1.5.3 Additional information:

1.5.4 Have you translated and disseminated the “Changwon Declaration” into local languages relevant for your country?

A - Yes

1.5.4 Additional information:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.5 implementation:

**STRATEGY 1.6 Science-based management of wetlands.** *Promote successful implementation of the wise use concept by ensuring that national policies and wetland management plans are based on the best available scientific knowledge, including technical and traditional knowledge.*

1.6.1 Has research to inform wetland policies and plans been undertaken in your country on:

- a. agriculture-wetland interactions
- b. climate change
- c. valuation of ecosystem services

KRA 1.6.i

B - No  
D - Planned  
D - Planned

1.6.1 Additional information: In accordance with the Strategy on implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity for 2011-2020 in 2012-2013 it is planned to develop and approve the methodology on value assessment of ecosystem services and value assessment of biological diversity.

Additionally, in accordance with the Action Plan on the implementation of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat it is planned to develop methodology on nature potential assessment (ecosystem services) of wetlands.

1.6.2 Have all wetland management plans been based on sound scientific research, including on potential threats to the wetlands? KRA 1.6.ii

A - Yes

1.6.2 Additional information: Management plans for all 6 wetlands of international importance (the Ramsar sites), as well as Lebyazhy Reserve, which includes protected wetland complex, were grounded on scientific research. To prepare management plans the data of the previously conducted scientific research was used, and also additional research was conducted. Assessment of potential threats to nature complexes is included into all wetlands management plans in the section 'Assessment of key threats and factors of negative influence on the nature complexes and objects of a reserve'.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.6 implementation:

**STRATEGY 1.7 Integrated Water Resources Management.** *Ensure that policies and implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), applying an ecosystem-based approach, are included in the planning activities in all Contracting Parties and in their decision-making processes, particularly concerning groundwater management, catchment/river basin management, coastal and nearshore marine zone planning and climate change mitigation and/or adaptation activities.*

1.7.1 Has the Convention's water-related guidance (see Resolution IX.1. Annex C) been helpful in informing decision-making related to water resource planning and management? {1.4.1} KRA 1.7.i

C - Partly

1.7.1 Additional information: In Belarus, there are no special institutions dealing with river basin management. Water body management is realised through administrative division. In terms of development of management plans for the Ramsar sites Middle Pripyat, Prostyr, Zvanets, Sporovsky the principles of the Framework for Integration of Wise Use and Protection of Wetlands into Sustainable Water Basin Resource Management were applied.

1.7.2 Does your country's water governance and management treat wetlands as natural water infrastructure integral to water resource management at the scale of river basins? KRA 1.7.ii

D - Planned

1.7.2 Additional information: In Belarus there is planned a development of schemes (2009-2014) for integrated management and protection of water basins of the rivers Western Dvina, Neman, Dnepr, Pripyat, Western Bug. Currently a discussion of the documents format is underway.

1.7.3 Have Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) expertise and tools been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management (see Resolution X.19)? {1.4.2}

C - Partly

1.7.3 Additional information: The CEPA expertise and tools was used only in the development of management plans for the Ramsar sites.

1.7.4 Has the Convention's guidance on wetlands and coastal zone management (Annex to Resolution VIII.4) been used/applied in Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) planning and decision-making? {1.4.3}

Z - Not applicable

1.7.4 Additional information:

1.7.5 Has your country established policies or guidelines for enhancing the role of wetlands in mitigation and/or adaptation to climate change? KRA 1.7.iii

B - No

1.7.5 Additional information:

1.7.6 Has your country formulated plans or projects to sustain and enhance the role of wetlands and water in supporting and maintaining viable farming systems? KRA 1.7.v

B - No

1.7.6 Additional information:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.7 implementation:

**STRATEGY 1.8 Wetland restoration.** *Identify priority wetlands and wetland systems where restoration or rehabilitation would be beneficial and yield long-term environmental, social or economic benefits, and implement the necessary measures to recover these sites and systems.*

1.8.1 Have priority sites for wetland restoration been identified? {1.5.1} KRA 1.8.i

A - Yes

1.8.1 Additional information: Based on cadastre data general areas of degraded mires with high priority for renaturalisation were composed and published. Including 25, 000 ha. damaged by forest reclamation, 18, 000 ha. of degraded peat soils, used for agricultural purposes, 250, 000 depleted peatlands, 500,000 ha. of natural mires with damaged hydrological regime. Currently there are works on inventory of depleted peatlands and definition of their further use. It is also planned to conduct integrated inventory of forest improvement systems with identification of peatlands, which have high priority for renaturalisation.

1.8.2 Have wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes or projects been implemented? {1.5.1} KRA 1.8.i

A - Yes

1.8.2 Additional information: UNDP/GEF Project 'Renaturalisation and Sustainable Management of Peatlands in Belarus to Combat Land Degradation Ensure Conservation of Globally Valuable Biodiversity and Mitigate Climate Change' was implemented in Belarus in 2006-2010. The project facilitated restoration of 15 degraded peatlands with total area of 28,000 ha. Normative base and recommendations for provision of legal groundwork for renaturalisation of damaged mires (technical codes of common practice (TCP), which stipulate rules and procedures for conduction of renaturalisation activities at degraded mires).

Draft programme of the Ministry of Forestry of Belarus was developed on renaturalisation of degraded mires on the land of the Forest Fond.

In 2009-2010 in the framework of the UNDP/GEF 'Polesie' Project a complex of works was completed on optimization of hydrological regime of 'Zvanets' Reserve. Efficiency of the conducted activities will be assessed in 2011.

In 2010 were completed projects on restoration of a hydrological regime of Yelnya and Dokudovsky with the financial support from GEF SGP and implementation from the side of BirdLife Belarus. In the framework of the project at the territory of Yelnya mire Miory Reclamation Systems constructed a number of overflow dams at the main waterways, which drainage the central part of the mire. Throughout two years volunteers also actively participated in works on restoration of a hydrological regime in the central part of Yelnya mire. During this time volunteers with the support from Coca Cola Belarus Beverages Company, on the drainage channels there were constructed more than 30 dams from local materials. More than 100 people took part in these construction activities.

1.8.3 Has Ramsar guidance (Annex to Resolution VIII.16) or equivalent guidance on wetland restoration been used in designing and implementing wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes or projects? {1.5.2}

A - Yes

1.8.3 Additional information: The following legal documents on degraded mire renaturalisation were developed:

- TCP 17.12-01-2008 (02120) 'Environmental protection and natural resources management. Territories. Procedures and rules for determining and altering ways of utilization of depleted peat deposits and other damaged mires'

- TCP 17.12-02-2008 (02120) 'Environmental protection and natural resources management. Territories. Procedures and rules for environmental rehabilitation of depleted peat deposits and other damaged mires and for prevention of violations of the hydrological regime of natural ecosystems while conduction reclamation activities'

- Methodical recommendations for ecological rehabilitation of damaged mires and prevention of disturbances to the hydrological regime of mire ecosystems in the process of drainage.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.8 implementation:

**STRATEGY 1.9 Invasive alien species.** *Encourage Contracting Parties to develop a national inventory of invasive alien species that currently and/or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands, especially Ramsar Sites, and ensure mutual supportiveness between the national inventory and IUCN's Global Register on Invasive Species (GRIS); develop guidance and promote procedures and actions to prevent, control or eradicate such species in wetland systems.*

1.9.1 Does your country have a comprehensive national inventory of invasive alien species that currently or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands?  
KRA 1.9.i

C - Partly

1.9.1 Additional information: Assessed distribution, scales and consequences of invasion of alien species of wild animal and wild-growing plants at wetlands and their influence on aboriginal species of fauna and flora.  
The monitoring system of the most significant invasive species is created.

1.9.2 Have national invasive species control and management policies or guidelines been established for wetlands?  
{1.6.1} KRa 1.9.iii

A - Yes

1.9.2 Additional information: In accordance with the Law of the Republic of Belarus 'On Wild Life' (10 July 2007) invasive alien wild animals are subject to control of quantity and distribution. By the Decree of the Ministry of Nature of Belarus 'On some issues concerning regulation of distribution and quantity of wild animals' an Instruction was adopted on procedures for regulation of distribution and quantity of wild animals, including invasive alien wild animal species. Besides in accordance with Rules of Hunting (8 December 2005) racoon dog is included into the list of unwelcome species.

A center on invasive species is established to ensure collection, proceeding, analysis and provision of data on alien species of fauna and flora.

Currently the draft plan is under development to fight one of the most dangerous specie of invasive plants – Sosnovsky hogweed.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.9 implementation:

**STRATEGY 1.10 Private sector.** *Promote the involvement of the private sector in the conservation and wise use of wetlands.*

1.10.1 Is the private sector encouraged to apply the Ramsar wise use principle and guidance (Ramsar handbooks for the wise use of wetlands) in its activities and investments concerning wetlands? {4.2.1} KRA 1.10.i

B - No

1.10.1 Additional information:

1.10.2 Has the private sector undertaken activities or actions for the wise and management of:

a. Wetlands in general

b. Ramsar Sites

KRA 1.10.ii

A - Yes

A - Yes



1.10.2 Additional information: a) Forest and water fond lands, SPNAs territories, including wetlands are property of the state. During the last time many wetlands are transferred to rent and temporary possession by legal persons. In particular, water reservoirs (lakes and water basins) and waterways (rivers and channels) are transferred to rent for commercial fishing economy, lands of forest fund (which include wetlands) are transferred for commercial hunting.

Conduction of commercial fishing is carried out by renters on the basis of a fish and biological rationale, and conduction of commercial hunting activities is carried out on the basis of the project (plan) for hunting, the specified documents are subject to obligatory state ecological expertise that provides observance of principles of steady use of wetlands.

b) Fifteen local initiatives located at the territories and around of Sporovsky, Zvanets, Middle Pripyat reserves had been supported in the framework of the Programme for financial support of ecological tourism development in the region of the Belarusian Polesie. In the result of micro project realisation there were improved tourists accomodation facilities, as well as the number of accomoadtion places was also increased. The Programme also facilitated the organisation of camping sites at ecological trails, created at the reserves' territories and also along river banks of the water trails.

1.10.3 Have awareness-raising materials been made available to enable wetland-friendly consumer choices? KRA 1.10.iii

A - Yes

1.10.3 Additional information: no comment

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.10 implementation:

**STRATEGY 1.11: Incentive measures.** *Promote incentive measures that encourage the application of the wise use provisions of the Convention.*

1.11.1 Have actions been taken to implement incentive measures which encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands? {4.3.1} KRA 1.11.i

A - Yes

1.11.1 Additional information: A competition was organized in the UNDP/GEF 'Polesie' Project framework where a number of micro projects, aimed at sustainable wetlands use had been implemented. GEF Small Grants Programme is implemented in Belarus. The initiative supports actively mini projects, aimed to wetlands sustainable management and use.

Ministry of Nature of Belarus supported development and realization of management plans as a method of wetlands protection, as well as creation of structures for SPNAs management. The method was included received compulsory status (the method was integrated into the law on SPNAs) for all Ramsar sites and for other the most important SPNAs.

Certification of the forest management according international and national standards received a wide support in Belarus. 27% of forestries were certified according international standards, 80% in accordance with national standards. The measure is aimed to ensure introduction of a new principle for sustainable management at the biggest part of the wetlands territories in Belarus ([www.belgiproles.by](http://www.belgiproles.by)).

1.11.2 Have actions been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands? {4.3.2} KRA 1.11.i

A - Yes

1.11.2 Additional information: An assessment of impact of flood protection programme on the condition of the Pripyat River bed was conducted. Currently there is a research activity underway on possible influence on wetlands conditions from the side of the cascade of waterpower plants are being constructed on large and small rivers of Belarus (Western Dvina, Berezina, Dnepr and etc.)

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.11 implementation:

## GOAL 2. WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

**Note.** An optional Annex (Section 4) to this COP11 National Report Format is provided so that a Contracting Party, if it so wishes, can also provide additional information separately on any of its designated Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites).

**STRATEGY 2.1 Ramsar Site designation.** Apply the “Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance” (Handbook 14, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition).

2.1.1 Have a national strategy and priorities been established for the further designation of Ramsar Sites, using the <i>Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List?</i> {2.1.1} KRA 2.1.i	A - Yes
2.1.1 Additional information: The Ministry of nature adopted updated list of 18 potential Ramsar sites.	
2.1.2 Have all required updates of the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands been submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat? {2.2.1} KRA 2.1.ii	A - Yes
2.1.2 Additional information: In 2009, an updated description of the Ramsar site Prostyr was presented to the Secretariat. In the framework of the UNDP/GEF Polesie Project updated descriptions of the Ramsar sites were developed. New data was received due to development and implementation of management plans for Sporovsky, Zvanets, Middle Pripyat, Yelnya, Osvejsky. On two territories – Olmansky Mires and Kotra additional information is absent.	
2.1.3 How many Ramsar Site designations in your country have been submitted to the Secretariat but are not yet placed on the List of Wetlands of International Importance? KRA 2.1.iii	1 sites
2.1.3 Additional information: One descriptions of wetland are prepared and submitted to the Convention Secretariat. The mentioned wetland correspond to the status of the Ramsar sites (Braslav Lakes)	
2.1.4 If further Ramsar Site designations are planned for the next triennium (2012-2015), please indicate how many sites (otherwise indicate 0) KRA 2.1.iii	3 sites
2.1.4 Additional information (please indicate the anticipated year of designation):	

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.1 implementation: no comment

**STRATEGY 2.2 Ramsar Site information.** Ensure that the Ramsar Sites Information Service . . . is available and enhanced as a tool for guiding the further designation of wetlands for the List of Wetlands of International Importance and for research and assessment, and is effectively managed by the Secretariat.

2.2.1 Are the Ramsar Sites Information Service and its tools being used in national identification of further Ramsar Sites to designate? {2.2.2} KRA 2.2.ii	A - Yes
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2.2.1 Additional information: Based on the data, received during description of Ramsar sites, decisions have been made on the necessity to develop management plans for two territories (Yelnya and Osvejsky reserves), on the necessity to organize integrated monitoring of SPNAs ecosystems, including all Ramsar sites. The results of the monitoring allow to update information about condition of Ramsar sites and take timely managerial decisions.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.2 implementation:

**STRATEGY 2.3 Management planning - new Ramsar Sites.** *While recognizing that Ramsar Site designation can act as a stimulus for development of effective site management plans, generally encourage the philosophy that all new Ramsar Sites should have effective management planning in place before designation, as well as resources for implementing such management.*

2.3.1 Have all sites being prepared for Ramsar designation (2.1.2 above) had adequate management planning processes established? KRA 2.3.i

C - Some sites

2.3.1 Additional information: Management plans had been developed for all wetlands after their designation as the Ramsar sites.

From three territories, submitted to the Secretariat for Ramsar site designation, for one territory (Berezinsky Reserve) a management plan has been developed, for the potential Ramsar site Braslav Lakes a management plan is to be developed in 2011.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.3 implementation:

**STRATEGY 2.4 Ramsar Site ecological character.** *Maintain the ecological character of all designated Ramsar Sites, through planning and management.*

2.4.1 How many Ramsar Sites have a management plan? {2.3.2} KRA 2.4.i	6 sites
2.4.2 For those Ramsar Sites with a management plan, for how many is the management plan being implemented? KRA 2.4.i	6 sites
2.4.3 How many Ramsar Sites have a management plan in preparation? KRA 2.4.i	1 sites
2.4.4 For those Ramsar Sites with a management plan, for how many is the management plan being revised or updated? KRA 2.4.i	2 sites

2.4.1 – 2.4.4 Additional information:

2.4.4. Management plan is under development for Braslav Lakes Park.

2.4.5. Management plans for Zvanets and Sporovsky have been revised in 2008, additional information was added, information is updated on ecological character of wetlands, new data on biological diversity is added, action plans are revised, a number of new activities are proposed to ensure protection and sustainable use of wetlands.

2.4.5 Do the Ramsar Site management plans establish the maintenance of the ecological character as a management objective? KRA 2.4.ii

A - Yes

2.4.5 Additional information: The prime objective of the management plans, developed for 6 Ramsar sites:

Establishment, support and improvement of conditions for sustainable functioning of wetland complexes and related ecosystems, as well as to ensure protection of all nature protection features, ecological and landscape specific characteristics of the Ramsar sites, including habitats of rare and endangered species.

2.4.6 How many sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.3.3} KRA 2.4.iv

0 sites

2.4.6 Additional information (If at least "1 site", please name the site(s)):

2.4.7 For how many sites has an ecological character description been prepared? KRA 2.4.v

9 sites

2.4.7 Additional information (If at least "1 site", please give the site(s) name and official number): Detailed description of ecological character of the territories is included into management plans for Yelnya, Osvejsky, Sporovsky, Zvanets, Middle Pripyat, Prostyr, Berezinsky Reserve, for Olmany Mires and Kotra there is a brief ecological character only.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.4 implementation:

**STRATEGY 2.5 Ramsar Site management effectiveness.** *Review all existing Ramsar Sites to determine the effectiveness of management arrangements, in line with the "Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance".*

2.5.1 Have any assessments of Ramsar Site management effectiveness been carried out? {2.3.4} KRA 2.5.i

C - Some sites

2.5.1 Additional information (if “Yes” or “Some sites”, please indicate the year of assessment and from whom, or from where, the information is available): Scientific and Practical Centre for Bioresources of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus on the example of the Ramsar site Zvanets assessed implementation efficiency of the management plan of this territory. The outcome was made that economic efficiency of the planned and conducted activities of the 5-year period management plan of Zvanets Reserve could constitute from 20 to 200 % from the spending on conduction of these activities, depending on applied calculation method.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.5 implementation:

**STRATEGY 2.6 Ramsar Site status.** *Monitor the condition of Ramsar Sites and address negative changes in their ecological character, notify the Ramsar Secretariat of changes affecting Ramsar Sites, and apply the Montreux Record, if appropriate, and Ramsar Advisory Mission as tools to address problems.*

2.6.1 Are arrangements in place for the Administrative Authority to be informed of negative human-induced changes or likely changes in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites, pursuant to Article 3.2? {2.4.1} KRA 2.6.i

B - No

2.6.1 Additional information (if “Yes” or “Some sites”, please summarise the mechanism(s) established):

2.6.2 Have all cases of negative human-induced change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites been reported to the Ramsar Secretariat, pursuant to Article 3.2,? {2.4.2} KRA 2.6.i

B - No

2.6.2 Additional information (if “Yes” or “Some cases”, please indicate for which Ramsar Sites Article 3.2 reports have been made by the Administrative Authority to the Secretariat, and for which sites such reports of change or likely change have not yet been made):

2.6.3 If applicable, have actions been taken to address the issues for which Ramsar Sites have been listed on the Montreux Record, including requesting a Ramsar Advisory Mission? {2.4.3} KRA 2.6.ii

Z - Not applicable

2.6.3 Additional information (if “Yes”, please indicate the actions taken):

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.6 implementation:

**STRATEGY 2.7 Management of other internationally important wetlands.** *Appropriate management and wise use achieved for those internationally important wetlands that have not yet been formally*

*designated as Ramsar Sites but have been identified through domestic application of the Strategic Framework or an equivalent process.*

2.7.1 Has the ecological character of internationally important wetlands not yet designated as Ramsar Sites been maintained? KRA 2.7.i

A - Yes

2.7.1 Additional information:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.7 implementation:

<b>GOAL 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION</b>
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<p><b>STRATEGY 3.1 Synergies and partnerships with MEAs and IGOs.</b> <i>Work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other intergovernmental agencies (IGOs).</i></p>
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<p>3.1.1 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)? {3.1.1} KRAs 3.1.i &amp; 3.1.ii</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
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<p>3.1.1 Additional information:</p>
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<p>3.1.2 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee? {3.1.2} KRA KRAs 3.1.i &amp; 3.1.iv</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
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<p>3.1.2 Additional information:</p>
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<p>3.1.3 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of UN and other global and regional bodies and agencies (e.g. UNEP, UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNECE, ITTO, etc)? KRA 3.1.iv</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
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<p>3.1.3 Additional information: Efficient co-operation has been established between the Ministry of Nature and UNDP Office via signed agreement. UNDP Office implements a number of international projects, initiated by the Ministry.</p>
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<p>3.1.4 [For African Contracting Parties only] Has the Contracting Party participated in the implementation of the wetland programme under NEPAD? {3.1.3} KRA 3.1.iii</p>	<p>Z - Not applicable</p>
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<p>3.1.4 Additional information:</p>
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<p>Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.1 implementation:</p>
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<p><b>STRATEGY 3.2 Regional initiatives.</b> <i>Support existing regional arrangements under the Convention and promote additional arrangements.</i></p>
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<p>3.2.1 Has the Contracting Party been involved in the development and implementation of a Regional Initiative under the framework of the Convention? {2.6.1} KRA 3.2.i</p>	<p>B - No</p>
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3.2.1 Additional information (If “Yes” or “Planned”, please indicate the regional initiative(s) and the collaborating countries of each initiative): A regional Agreement on nature protection in the Dnieper River basin is signed between Belarus, Russia and Ukraine in the framework of UNDP/GEF 'Improvement of ecological character of the Dnieper River'. The mentioned Agreement could be given a status of the regional initiative in the Ramsar Convention framework.

3.2.2 Has your country provided support to, or participated in, the development of other regional (i.e., covering more than one country) wetland training and research centres? {4.10.1}

B - No

3.2.2 Additional information (If “Yes”, please indicate the name(s) of the centre(s):

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.2 implementation:

**STRATEGY 3.3 International assistance.** *Promote international assistance to support the conservation and wise use of wetlands, while ensuring that environmental safeguards and assessments are an integral component of all development projects that affect wetlands, including foreign and domestic investments.*

3.3.1 [For Contracting Parties with development assistance agencies only (“donor countries”): Has funding support been provided from the development assistance agency for wetland conservation and management in other countries? {4.5.1} KRA 3.3.i

Z - Not applicable

3.3.1 Additional information (If “Yes”, please indicate the countries supported since COP10):

3.3.2 [For Contracting Parties with development assistance agencies only (“donor countries”): Have environmental safeguards and assessments been included in development proposals proposed by your development assistance agency? KRA 3.3.ii

Z - Not applicable

3.3.2 Additional information:

3.3.3 [For Contracting Parties that have received development assistance only (“recipient countries”): Has funding support been received from development assistance agencies specifically for in-country wetland conservation and management? {4.5.2}

A - Yes

3.3.3 Additional information (If “Yes”, please indicate from which countries/agencies since COP10): The main financial support to the activities on sustainable use of wetlands was provided in the framework of various state programmes. During 2006-2010 international organizations were also involved into the activities:

- UNDP/GEF Project 'Renaturalisation and Sustainable Management of Peatlands in Belarus, to Combat Land Degradation, Ensure Conservation of Globally Valuable Biodiversity, and Mitigate Climate Change';
- UNDP/GEF Project 'Catalyzing Sustainability of the Wetland Protected Area System in Belarusian Polesie through Increased Management Efficiency and Realigned Land Use Practices' (2006-2011)
- Project 'Climate and Biodiversity' 2008-2011 (supported by German Development Bank KfW, RSPB)

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.3 implementation:

**STRATEGY 3.4 Sharing information and expertise.** *Promote the sharing of expertise and information concerning the conservation and wise use of wetlands.*

3.4.1 Have networks, including twinning arrangements, been established, nationally or internationally, for knowledge sharing and training for wetlands that share common features? {3.2.1}

A - Yes

3.4.1 Additional information (If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate the networks and wetlands involved): Exchange in experience on fen mires management in Belarus is established on a regular basis (Ramsar sites Zvanets, Sporovsky), in Poland (Ramsar site Biebrza, also in the Ukraine and Hungary by participation of groups of experts in annual meetings of the Aquatic Warbler Conservation Team.

3.4.2 Has information about your country’s wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites and their status been made publicly available (e.g., through publications or a website)? {3.2.2}

A - Yes

3.4.2 Additional information: The information about the Ramsar Convention is posted at the Web site of the Ministry of Nature of Belarus ([www.minpriroda.by](http://www.minpriroda.by)).

Information on some Ramsar sites is posted at [www.interfax.by](http://www.interfax.by) in the section 'Green Tourism'.

Pages with information about the reserves are created at the Web sites of the District Executive Committees.

In 2010 was published a book 'Flora and Vegetation of the Landscape Reserve Yelnya'.

A documentary film 'Mires Will Live!' was created in the framework of the UNDP/GEF Project 'Renaturalisation and Sustainable Management of Peatlands in Belarus, to Combat Land Degradation, Ensure Conservation of Globally Valuable Biodiversity, and Mitigate Climate Change'.

A documentary film 'The Pearl of the Belarusian Land' was created in the framework of the UNDP/GEF Project 'Catalyzing Sustainability of the Wetland Protected Area System in Belarusian Polesie through Increased Management Efficiency and Realigned Land Use Practices'.

Web sites were developed for UNDP/GEF 'Peatlands' Project ([www.petalands.by](http://www.petalands.by)) and UNDP/GEF 'Polesie' Project ([www.polesie-wetlands.by](http://www.polesie-wetlands.by)), where updated information on the Ramsar sites Middle Pripyat, Prostyr, Zvanets, Sporovsky and etc.

3.4.3 Has information about your country's wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites been transmitted to the Ramsar Secretariat for dissemination? KRA 3.4.ii

B - No

3.4.3 Additional information:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.4 implementation:

**STRATEGY 3.5 Shared wetlands, river basins and migratory species.** *Promote inventory and cooperation for the management of shared wetlands and hydrological basins, including cooperative monitoring and management of shared wetland-dependent species.*

3.5.1 Have all transboundary/shared wetland systems been identified? {2.5.1} KRA 3.5.i

A - Yes

3.5.1 Additional information: The following territories were designated as the transboundary Ramsar sites:

'Kotra-Chakpelay' (Belarus-Lithuania) in 2010

'Prostyr-Pripyat-Stokhod' (Belarus-Ukraine) in 2009

The creation of transboundary territory 'Vileyti-Adutishkis' (Belarus-Lithuania).

Earlier inventory of the most important wetlands on the border of Belarus and Lithuania was conducted. Seven transboundary territories were identified and described. Materials and recommendations were submitted to the relevant ministries for organization of protection activities at these territories.

Transboundary wetland complexes were marked in Belarus-Latvia near-border strip. It was done for perfection of a transboundary nature protection network and working out of recommendations on their protection. The complexes are of a great significance for preservation of biological diversity. Map charts and recommendations have been prepared on creation of a network of near-border wetland complexes in the region.

Activities have been completed to submit a request for designation of the National Park Braslavsky Lakes for the Ramsar site. The concept of the draft proposal was prepared on creation on the basis of National Park Braslavsky Lakes (Belarus) and Landscape territory Augshdaugava (Latvia) of transboundary SPNA.

Potential transboundary wetlands are defined between Belarus and Ukraine, the plan of their joint management is developed.

Potential transboundary wetlands are defined in the border areas of Vitebsk, Mogilyov, and Gomel Regions of Belarus and the Pskov, Smolensk and Bryansk Regions of the Russian Federation.

3.5.2 Is effective cooperative management in place for shared wetland systems (for example, in shared river basins and coastal zones)? {2.5.2} KRA 3.5.ii

C - Partly

3.5.2 Additional information (if “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate for which wetland systems such management is in place): Management plan for the Pripjat River basin between Belarus and Ukraine was developed in the framework of the international TACIS project.

It is planned to develop a management plan for Vilia River basin (Belarus-Lithuania).

System of joint management for the transboundary Ramsar site Prostyr (Belarus) – Pripjat-Stokhod (Ukraine) is under development in the framework of UNDP/GEF Polesie Project.

It is essential to develop a management plan for Kotra Reserve and co-ordinate it with the management plan of the Ramsar site Chapkelay for in the borders of another transboundary Ramsar site Kotra (Belarus) – Chapkelay (Lithuania).

In the course of Osvejsky Reserve management plan implementation it is planned to take into consideration activities of the existing management plan for the National Park Sebezhsy (the Russian Federation), which borders on Osvejsky Reserve.

Bilateral management plan for biodiversity conservation at the transboundary area of the Drisvaty Lake is developed in the framework of the Belarusian-Lithuanian project 'Protection and Sustainable Management of Biodiversity at the Drisvaty Lake – transboundary wetland complex of international importance'. The plan is aimed to diminish impact of the nuclear power plant, situated in the area, as well as possible consequences for biodiversity after its shut down.

3.5.3 Does your country participate in regional networks or initiatives for wetland-dependent migratory species? KRA  
3.5.iii

B - No

3.5.3 Additional information:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.5 implementation:

<b>GOAL 4. IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY</b>
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<p><b>STRATEGY 4.1 CEPA.</b> <i>Support, and assist in implementing at all levels, where appropriate, the Convention's Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness Programme (Resolution X.8) for promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands through communication, education, participation awareness (CEPA) and work towards wider awareness of the Convention's goals, mechanisms, and key findings.</i></p>
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<p>4.1.1 Has/have an Action Plan/Plans for wetland CEPA been established? {4.4.2} KRA 4.1.i</p>	
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- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>a) At the national level<br/>b) Sub-national level<br/>c) Catchment/basin level<br/>d) Local/site level</p> | <p>B - No<br/>B - No<br/>B - No<br/>C - In progress</p> |
|--|---|

<p>(Even if no CEPA plans have been developed, if broad CEPA objectives for CEPA actions have been established, please indicate this below in the Additional information section below)</p>	
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<p>4.1.1 Additional information (if "Yes" or "In progress" to one of the four questions above, please describe the mechanism, and identify if it has involved CEPA NFPs):</p>	
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<p>4.1.2 How many centres (visitor/interpretation/education) have been established at Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {4.4.6} KRA 4.1.ii</p>	<p>4 centres</p>
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<p>4.1.2 Additional information (If centres are part of a national or international network, please describe the network(s)): 4.1.3 Additional information: (If any such centres are part of the Wetland Link International (WLI) Programme of the Wildfowl &amp; Wetland Trust, UK, please indicate this)</p>	
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<p>Ecological and educational centres are opened in the Ramsar sites Sporovsky (Bereza District), Middle Pripyat (Luninets District), Middle Pripyat and Olymany Mires (Stolin District), Zvanets (Drogichin District) at the base of state nature protection units, with support from the Ministry of Nature of the Republic of Belarus and UNDP/GEF 'Polesie' Project.</p>	
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<p>4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party:</p>	
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- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| <p>a) promote public participation in decision-making with respect to wetland planning and management</p> <p>b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?</p> | <p>A - Yes<br/>A - Yes</p> |
|---|----------------------------|

<p>{4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii</p>	
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4.1.3 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Partly", please provide information about the ways in which local communities are involved): Recommendations of the Convention on involvement of local communities into wetlands management are implemented and is realising in development and and conduction of the management plans for the Ramsar sites Sporovsky, Zvanets, Yelnya. Representatives of the local communities were involoved at all stages of mangement plans development and implementation. People from local villages participtaed at the construction and mangement activities at the territories of the reserves.

4.1.4 Has an assessment of national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention been made? {4.10.2} KRAs 4.1.iv & 4.1.viii

B - No

4.1.4 Additional information: No special activities on assessment for training needs were conducted

4.1.5 How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP10? {4.10.3} KRA 4.1.iv

12 opportunities

4.1.5 Additional information (including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training): Directors of the state nature protection institutions for the reserves' (Ramsar sites) management took part in special meetings of the Ministry of Nature and other seminars on exchange in experience with experts from the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus on wetlands management, ecotourism development and involvement of local communities into the Ramsar sites management.

4.1.6 Do you have an operational National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee (or equivalent body)? {4.8.2}

A - Yes

4.1.6 Additional information (If "Yes", indicate a) its membership; b) its frequency of meetings; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has): National Ramsar Committee is established at the end of 2004; in 2007 the Committee was renewed.

4.1.7 Are other communication mechanisms (apart from a national committee) in place to share Ramsar implementation guidelines and other information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and

- a. Ramsar Sites managers?
- b. other MEA national focal points?
- c. relevant ministries, departments and agencies?

C - Partly

C - Partly

C - Partly

{4.4.3} KRA 4.1.vi

4.1.7 Additional information (If "Yes" or "Partly", please describe what types of mechanism are in place): In Belarus the order of the necessary coordination with the interested ministries and departments of all projects and programs, including related to wetlands management, is established.

When working out of management plans for Ramsar sites (Yelnya Osvejsky, Middle Pripyat, Prostyr) were held meetings and discussion of planned actions for the organization of conduction sustainable forest, rural and a water management with all interested parties (local authorities, land users, representatives of services of the Ministry of Nature, mass-media).

Directors of the state nature protection institutions, established for the management of the Ramsar sites, annually submit reports to the Ministry of Nature.

4.1.8 Have World Wetlands Day activities, either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out in the country since COP10? {4.4.5}

A - Yes

4.1.8 Additional information: Press-conferences are usually conducted on the World Wetlands Day.

To ensure celebration of the World Wetlands Day at the republican and regional levels in 2009 the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus adopted the Action Plan on Preparation and Conduction of the World Wetlands Day. In accordance with the mentioned above plan competitions, exhibitions, actions, lections and other activities had been conducted and covered widely by the republican and local mass-media.

4.1.9 Have campaigns, programmes, and projects (other than for World Wetlands Day) been carried out since COP10 to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands to people and wildlife and the ecosystem benefits/services provided by wetlands? {4.4.4}

A - Yes

4.1.9 Additional information (including, if support has been provided for the delivery of these and other CEPA activities by other organisations, please indicate this): Two-three ad-clips on the wetlands importanmce demostrtaed every day at the national TV, national competitions on wetlands birds watching are conducted annually as well as orhanised national compaing 'The Bird of the Year', post stamps and anniversary coins, dedicated to the Ramsar sites are issued. State nature protection institutions, which conduct SPNAs management, including Ramsar sites with wetland protected complexes, published with the support from the Ministry of nature and District Executive Committees booklets with information about touristic and nature potential of these territories.

Information on the reserves, with have status of the Ramsar sites, also is presented at the exhibitions of touristic resources.

Official tourism Web site of the Republic of Belarus <http://belarustourism.by> contains information about the most important republican reserves, which have Ramsar site status.



Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.1 implementation:

**STRATEGY 4.2 Convention financial capacity.** *Provide the financial resources necessary for the Convention's governance, mechanisms and programmes to achieve the expectations of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, within the availability of existing resources and by the effective use of such resources; explore and enable options and mechanism for mobilization of new and additional resources for implementation of the Convention.*

4.2.1

a) Have Ramsar contributions been paid in full for 2009, 2010, 2011? {4.6.1} KRA 4.2.i

A - Yes

b) If "No" in 4.2.1 a), please clarify what plan is in place to ensure future prompt payment:

4.2.2 Has any additional financial support been provided through voluntary contributions to non-core funded Convention activities? {4.6.2} KRA 4.2.i

B - No

4.2.2 Additional information (If "Yes" please state the amounts, and for which activities):

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.2 implementation:

**STRATEGY 4.3 Convention bodies' effectiveness.** *Ensure that the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Standing Committee, Scientific and Technical Review Panel, and Secretariat are operating at a high level of efficiency and effectiveness to support the implementation of the Convention.*

4.3.1 Has the Contracting Party used its previous Ramsar National Reports in monitoring its implementation of the Convention? {4.7.1} KRA 4.3.ii

A - Yes

4.3.1 Additional information (If "Yes", please indicate how the Reports have been used for monitoring): Based on the analysis of the Ramsar Convention implementation reports activities were formulated on integration of the National Strategy on SPNAs Network Development for the period up to 2022, the State Programme of SPNAs Network Development for 2008-2012 into the national Strategy of Implementation of the Convention on wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat.

4.3.2 Has the Secretariat been updated on any appointments and changes in Administrative Authority focal points and daily contacts (including CEPA and STRP National Focal Points)? KRA 4.3.i

A - Yes

4.3.2 Additional information:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.3 implementation:

**STRATEGY 4.4 Working with IOPs and others.** *Maximize the benefits of working with the Convention's International Organization Partners (IOPs\*) and others.*

\* The IOPs are: BirdLife International, the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), Wetlands International, and WWF International.

4.4.1 Has your country received assistance from one or more of the Convention's IOPs in its implementation of the Convention? {4.9.1} KRA 4.4.iii

A - Yes

4.4.1 Additional information (If "Yes" please provide the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided): Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (BirdLife International) provided Belarus with the following support:

- organisation of international conference on wetlands protection and climate change;
- co-financing of the UNDP/GEF Project on renaturalisation of degraded mires;
- implementation of the international project on mapping of forest of a special nature protection importance;
- conduction of a pilot project on assessment of degraded mires area and their renaturalisation costs.

4.4.2 Has your country provided assistance to one or more of the Convention's IOPs? {4.9.2} KRA 4.4.iii

A - Yes

4.4.2 Additional information (If "Yes" please provide the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided):

- Wetlands International: participation in international record keeping of wintering waterfowl;
  - BirdLife International: participation in conduction of international actions and initiatives: international bird watching days to attract the attraction of wider communities, participation in the project on monitoring of common bird species;
- OMPO: designated new potential transboundary Ramsar site Vileyty-Adutishkis (Belarus-Lithuania).

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.4 implementation:

**Section 4 ([www.ramsar.org/doc/cop11/cop11\\_nrform\\_e\\_sec4.doc](http://www.ramsar.org/doc/cop11/cop11_nrform_e_sec4.doc))** is an optional Annex to the National Report Format to allow any Contracting Party that wishes to do so to provide additional information separately for any or all of its Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites).